

# **The Grainger Wind Symphony COVID-Safe Plan**

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to set out the Grainger Wind Symphony (GWS)'s COVID-Safe Plan.

## **Context**

GWS is a community music group comprising musicians who share a passion for creating quality wind-band music. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Grainger Wind Symphony like many other community organisations has not been rehearsing or performing since March 2020. The Committee of the GWS is committed to recommence rehearsals when it is safe to do so, when GWS has a performance venue, and in accordance with current Government advice.

In addition to Government advice, the Committee has reviewed current best practice and research into band music. In consultation with the Committee, our Musical Director, Roland Yeung has conducted ongoing research into the risks associated with playing percussion, wind and brass instruments. As an organisation, GWS is committed to following best practice advice.

Presenting approximately six concerts a year, GWS strives to bring its audiences a greater appreciation and enjoyment of the works of Australian composers and wind symphony music generally. GWS also has a strong commitment to music education and the development of young musicians.

The group is based at Blackburn High School in the City of Whitehorse and performs in a variety of venues, mainly in the Melbourne CBD or in suitable venues where invited. The venues we have recently used include St Peter's Anglican Church, Box Hill; Music Auditorium, Monash University Clayton; Cato Hall, Wesley College Glen Waverley; and St Stephen's Anglican Church, Richmond. Rehearsals are on a Wednesday night at Blackburn High School with usually 5 rehearsals for each concert. On occasion, we have rehearsed at Box Hill City Band Hall.

GWS is aware that different venues will have their own policies around COVID-19 and our policy below will be adapted in response to our stakeholders. GWS will also adapt elements of our COVID-Safe Plan in line with changing government policies.

## **Policy Developments**

The Grainger Wind Symphony (GWS) will be guided in developing and implementing the plan in light of changing government policies made in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and our rehearsals and performances. The unpredictability of the virus may result in sharp shifts in government policy impacting on the ability of GWS to perform and rehearse. As such, GWS will be responsive to government policies as long as they last.

As of 7 December 2020, Victoria is in 'COVID-Safe Summer'. The current restrictions are that:

- 1) Masks must be carried at all times and are strongly recommended in spaces where social distancing is not possible. That is, the 1.5m distance is unsustainable.
- 2) For creative arts venues, there is no patron limit subject to a density of 2sqm, with mandatory electronic record keeping.

The Grainger Wind Symphony will consult with our venues and follow policies implemented by hirers of rehearsal and performance spaces (including Government Department of Education policies).

## **Resumption of Rehearsals & Performances**

GWS is committed to returning to rehearsals and performances when the group can come together to enable rehearsal and performance of music suited to a high standard wind symphony.

This document will now set out the GWS COVID-Safe Plan to return to rehearsals and performances.

### *Grainger Expectations and Rules*

Our players and other participants who are attending a GWS rehearsal or event are urged to follow the following guidelines to ensure safety of our community.

### Unwell

1. Players and other participants should not attend rehearsals if they are unwell, awaiting a COVID-19 test, are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, or otherwise told to self-isolate.
2. If players are unable to attend for any reason, players should as soon as possible inform their section manager or personnel manager of their unavailability, so that a replacement player can be found.
3. If a player or other participant discovers they are required to self-isolate due to COVID-19 after a rehearsal, they must notify GWS as soon as practicable.

### Physical distancing

The current physical distancing requirements are for there to be a density limit of one person per 2sqm.

4. Players should remain 1.5m apart from each other as much as possible.

### Face coverings

The current guidelines are to wear masks indoors where social distancing is not possible.

5. Players are urged to wear their masks inside when they are not playing their instruments.
6. Players and other participants should wear a properly fitted mask, according to government guidelines as to what constitutes a sufficient facial covering.

### Practise good hygiene

To protect against the spread of viruses, players are expected to follow good hygiene practices.

7. GWS will provide communal hand sanitiser and disinfectant wipes at the door of the venue.
8. Players and other participants should bring:
  - a. hand sanitiser and disinfectant wipes.
  - b. a copy of their music (which will be distributed by the committee).
  - c. their own instruments.
  - d. their own music stand, and chair (if required) (if preferred by the venue).

- e. A cloth to go under their instruments to collect any condensation and body fluids.
9. GWS Committee will mop floors, wipe door handles and other shared surfaces with disinfectant after rehearsals/performances, if required by the venue

### Contact tracing measures

The current policy is for there to be kept a clear record of an electronic register of attendances.

- 10. For rehearsals and concerts, players and other participants must register their attendance using the QR code system on entry. Registration in our player management system registration (GWS CRM) will be mandatory for playing.
- 11. For concerts, audience members must register their attendance at the door using the QR Code system as required by Government authorities.
- 12. In the event a player, other participant or audience member does not have a phone or other device, a manual register will record their attendance.

### Ventilation

- 13. To allow ventilation throughout the practice spaces, rehearsals will run as:
  - a. 45 minute rehearsal;
  - b. 20 minute break;
  - c. 45 minute rehearsal.
- 14. During breaks, all performers and audience members will be required to leave the rehearsal or performance space
- 15. Doors will remain open during rehearsals and performances.

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Melissa Kennedy  
President  
Grainger Wind Symphony  
10/12/20

Endorsed by the Committee of the Grainger Wind Symphony